



Plant Botanical Name:

Encephalartos lehmannii

Plant Threat Level:

Threatened

The Karoo cycad is endemic to the Eastern Cape of South Africa. Cycads are the oldest seed producing plants and according to fossil records predate dinosaurs. Wild populations of *Encephalartos lehmannii* are threatened by habitat destruction and unsustainable collection of plants for both horticultural and traditional uses. Conservation of plant material in botanical gardens and seed banks, controlling trade in cycads and protection of wild populations and habitat are being undertaken.

Photo: Rhoda McMaster

